

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN
COLUMN WASHINGTON POST MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 HEADED
"PLO IS RAISING FUNDS IN U.S."

2. THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IS RAISING
FUNDS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS GUERRILLA ACTIVI-
TIES. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, MONEY HAS BEEN
ROUTED THROUGH THE PLO'S PERMANENT OBSERVER POST AT
THE UNITED NATIONS.

3. THE FUNDS COLLECTED FROM PLO SYMPATHIZERS IN
THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN A PLO ACCOUNT
OVERSEAS. THE ACCOUNT IS USED TO FINANCE PLO OPERA-
TIONS, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING TERRORIST RAIDS AND
AIRPLANE HIJACKINGS.

4. THROUGH SEVERAL INTERNEDIARIES, WE HAVE OBTAINED
PROOF OF THE CLANDESTINE PLO COLLECTIONS IN THE UNITED
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STATES. IT CONSISTS OF A THANK-YOU NOTE, WRITTEN IN

ARABIC ON THE STATIONERY OF THE PLO'S UNITED NATIONS OFFICE. THE LETTER IS SIGNED BY JACOB OUBEDI, THE

PLO'S TOP FUND RAISER IN BEIRUT, AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE "PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA."

5. IT RELATES HOW THE VIRGINIANS HAD COLLECTED 4,084 DOLLARS, WHICH OUBEDI SAID WOULD GO INTO THE "PLO NATIONAL CHEST." OUBEDI'S CODE NAME, BY THE WAY, IS "ABU KHALED."

6. "WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR OUR HOLY CAUSE AND A REVOLUTIONARY VICTORY," WROTE OUBEDI. HE NOTED THAT THE VIRGINIANS' MONEY HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO HIM BY THE PLO DIRECTOR IN NEW YORK, ZOHER TARAZI.

7. TARAZI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OUBEDI HAD BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT A FUND-RAISING EFFORT IS GOING ON. BUT HE INSISTED FORCEFULLY THAT "THEY ARE NOT USING THIS CHANNEL" FOR COLLECTING FUNDS.

8. WE POINTED OUT THAT OUBEDI'S LETTER WAS WRITTEN ON THE PLO'S U.N. STATIONERY. TARAZI THEN RECALLED THAT THE VIRGINIANS HAD DELIVERED THE 4,084 DOLLAR CHECK TO HIM, AND THAT HE HAD FORWARDED IT TO OUBEDI. "WE WERE JUST A PIGEON DROP," HE SAID.

9. ALTHOUGH TARAZI ADMITTED THE FUND DRIVE REACHED INTO MANY STATES, HE SAID MONEY FOR THE PLO WAS SCARCE. "WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE BILLIONS GOING TO OTHER PLACES," HE EXCLAIMED. HE ALLUDED TO THE MASSIVE FUND-RAISING EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF ISRAEL.

10. FOOTNOTE: THE PLO IS REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AS A FOREIGN AGENT BUT ONLY FOR "INFORMATION ACTIVITIES," NOT FUND COLLECTING. THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FOR OUBEDI.

11. KISSINGER'S CREDIBILITY -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS HELD IN SUCH LOW ESTEEM IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SAUDI ARABIA THAT FORMER AMERICAN AMBASSADOR JAMES E. AKINS WROTE DESPAIRINGLY FROM JEDDAH: "I SOMETIMES WONDER HOW WE CAN MAINTAIN ANY INFLUENCE AT ALL IN THIS COUNTRY, AND I STRONGLY SUSPECT WE'RE ON A STEEP DOWNWARD PATH HERE."

12. AKINS CONFIDED HIS VIEWS IN SECRET MEMOS AND LETTERS, WHICH WE HAVE OBTAINED.

13. KISSINGER.S "CREDIBILITY IN SAUDI ARABIA," WROTE
THE FORMER AMBASSADOR, "IS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS

IT IS IN THE U.S. SENATE."

14. IN A SECRET "MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE," DATED
AUG. 28, 1975, HE TOLD OF A PRIVATE CONVERSATION
WITH SAUDI OIL MINISTER AHMED ZAKI YAMANI. THE
POWERFUL OIL MINISTER COMPLAINED OF THE ".GAMES. THE
U.S. IS PLAYING IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

15. KISSINGER.S TACTICS "HAD LONG BEEN DISCUSSED IN
SAUDI ARABIA," AND THE SAUDIS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE
UNITED STATES WAS "PUTTING ALL (ITS) CARDS ON IRAN,"
YAMANI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR.

16. "IT WAS OBVIOUS," YAMANI EXPLAINED, "THAT THE
STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ADOPTED A PRO-IRAN, ANTI-ARAB
LINE, AND HE WONDERED IF PRESIDENT FORD WOULD FALL FOR
IT. HE HOPED NOT."

17. THE SAUDIS HAD AS HIGH AN OPINION OF AKINS AS
THEY HAD A LOW OPINION OF KISSINGER. THUS AKINS.
RECENT DISMISSAL, HE WROTE, WAS VIEWED BY THE SAUDIS
"AS A MOVE MORE AGAINST THEM THAN AGAINST ME."

18. IN A RECENT LETTER TO TREASURY SECRETARY WILLIAM E.
SIMON, AKINS REPORTED: "THE SAUDIS INTENDED TO TAKE UP
MY DISMISSAL WHEN KISSINGER WAS HERE AND MAKE A MAJOR
ISSUE OF IT. I ASKED THEM, AS A PERSONAL FAVOR, NOT TO
DO SO."

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19. BUT KISSINGER MISINTERPRETED THEIR FAILURE TO
REACT, ACCORDING TO AKINS, "KISSINGER HAS CONCLUDED
THAT THEIR NON-REACTION SHOWS THEY GOT HIS .MESSAGE.
AND ARE FRIGHTENED."

20. ON THE CONTRARY, AKINS RELATED HOW THE SAUDIS HAD
BEEN DERIDING KISSINGER. BECAUSE THE AMBASSADOR HAD
TRIED TO DEFEND HIS BOSS, TWO TOP MINISTERS, YAMANI
AND ISHAM NAZER "HAVE BEEN TAUNTING ME FOR THE LAST
WEEK," HE REPORTED, "WITH MY PAST STAUNCH VIGOROUS
DEFENSE OF KISSINGER. BOTH OF THEM CLAIM THEY SAW
THROUGH HIM IMMEDIATELY AND TAKE GREAT JOY IN QUOTING
VERBATIM MY DEFENSE OF HIM AND HIS POLICIES."

21. KISSINGER ALSO HAD THE MISTAKEN IDEA, ACCORDING

TO AKINS. SECRET LETTER, THAT HE HAD MADE A FAVORABLE
IMPRESSION UPON THE LATE KING FAISAL. THE SAUDIS
"FIND IT HILARIOUSLY FUNNY," WROTE AKINS, "THAT
KISSINGER HAS CLAIMED THAT IT WAS HE HIMSELF THE KING

CAME TO LIKE AND TRUST."

22. FOOTNOTE: WE REACHED AKINS IN LONDON. HE CON-
FIRMED THAT HE HAD WRITTEN SECRET LETTERS AND MEMOS
BUT REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THEM. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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